



JANUARY 2011

NATIONAL DIRECT STUDENT LOAN COALITION

Dear Member,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and that you are rested and ready for the beginning of classes in the new semester. For those of us that are experiencing prolonged cold temperatures and snowy days, let's think "spring".

The National Direct Student Loan Coalition Executive Council will be having its quarterly meeting in Washington, DC in February. The Council will spend one day on Capitol Hill visiting staff for both Representatives and Senators to provide an update of the successful transition to Direct Lending by all schools. It will be crucial for the Coalition to educate the staff for new members in Congress since they may not be familiar with the history of the two loan programs and why Direct Lending is more beneficial for students. This will be a year that will require our Coalition to be vigilant with the members of Congress to ensure they are kept informed about the benefits of Direct Lending for students and to ensure that the new federal loan servicers provide quality service to the students who are in repayment.

The Council will also meet with key staff members at the Office of Federal Student Aid to address issues that have been voiced by schools, and to give suggestions for processing enhancements for both the COD system and the system generated reports. The Coalition remains committed to serving the interests of all schools, whether they have been in Direct Lending for years or if they are in their first year of transition to the program. If you have any input, or suggestions about any aspect of the program that you want voiced at our meeting with FSA, please feel free to contact me personally at hoover@denison.edu so they can be added to the agenda for our February meeting.

I am excited about the opportunities ahead for all of us in this new year and I look forward to working with you as we work with Congress and FSA to ensure that the Direct Loan program continues to be a great loan program for students.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoover
Chair, National Direct Student Loan Coalition
Director of Financial Aid
Denison University

The mission of the National Direct Student Loan Coalition is to promote the success of the Federal Direct Student Loan Program in serving the interests of students, families, taxpayers and institutions.

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■ Duplicate Borrower Report

FSA held FOCUS group meetings at the FSA Conference in December. The Duplicate Borrower Report was one of the topics discussed. The Coalition has encouraged FSA to review the suggestions they received in the focus groups for enhancements to improve the usefulness of the Duplicate Borrower Report. The Coalition will update our members as soon as we get more information about this initiative.

■ Federal Loan Servicers

The Federal Loan Servicers are sending out welcome packets to schools as each servicer is beginning to service federal loans for a school's borrowers. The welcome packets contain specific information about the servicer which is intended to assist schools in working with the servicer and their borrowers. Some schools were concerned about their ability to view account information for their borrowers and FSA has indicated that schools should have electronic access to information about their borrowers' loans held by each servicer even if the borrower has not established on line access with the servicer.

■ Recent FSA Announcements:

SUBJECT: Loan Servicing Information - Direct Loan Transfer Initiative Update

POSTED DATE: January 13, 2011

AUTHOR: Jana Hernandez, Service Director, Federal Student Aid

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/011311DLTransferInitiativeUpdate.html>

This announcement contains important information about the transfer of \$1.2 million William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program borrower accounts to new federal loan servicers in December, 2010. This announcement also identifies some issues that schools should be aware of regarding incorrect loan status and balance information for some transferred loans and delayed new loan or subsequent disbursement information in NSLDS.

SUBJECT: Newsletter 30: Enhancements to NSLDS Cohort Default Rate Process

PUBLICATION DATE: January 12, 2011

POSTED DATE: January 12, 2011

<http://ifap.ed.gov/nsldsmaterials/NSLDSNewsletter30.html>

This newsletter describes enhancements to the NSLDS Cohort Default Rate (CDR) process. The Loan Record Detail Report (LRDR) layout, supporting new and past calculations, will be changed to provide institutions with additional data that will aid in researching their rates.

SUBJECT: Newsletter 29: New NSLDS Functionality Including School Portfolio Report

PUBLICATION DATE: January 6, 2011

POSTED DATED: January 6, 2011

<http://ifap.ed.gov/nsldsmaterials/NSLDSNewsletter29.html>

This newsletter describes new functionality added to the NSLDS Access Professional web site including the new school portfolio report.

House Committee on Education and the Workforce

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The House of Representatives has announced the members of the new Education and Workforce Committee.

■ Republicans

John Kline, Minnesota (*Chairman*)
Thomas E. Petri, Wisconsin
Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, California
Judy Biggert, Illinois
Todd Russell Platts, Pennsylvania
Joe Wilson, South Carolina
Virginia Foxx, North Carolina
Duncan D. Hunter, California
David P. Roe, Tennessee
Glenn Thompson, Pennsylvania
Tim Walberg, Michigan
Scott DesJarlais, Tennessee
Richard Hanna, New York
Todd Rokita, Indiana
Larry Bucshon, Indiana
Trey Gowdy, South Carolina
Lou Barletta, Pennsylvania
Kristi Noem, South Dakota
Martha Roby, Alabama
Joe Heck, Nevada
Dennis Ross, Florida
Mike Kelly, Pennsylvania
Vacancy

■ Democrats

George Miller, California (*Ranking Member*)
Dale E. Kildee, Michigan
Donald M. Payne, New Jersey
Robert E. Andrews, New Jersey
Robert C. Scott, Virginia
Lynn C. Woolsey, California
Rubén Hinojosa, Texas
Carolyn McCarthy, New York
John F. Tierney, Massachusetts
Dennis J. Kucinich, Ohio
David Wu, Oregon
Rush D. Holt, New Jersey
Susan A. Davis, California
Raúl M. Grijalva, Arizona
Timothy H. Bishop, New York
Dave Loebsack, Iowa
Mazie Hirono, Hawaii

